OFFICIAL
PROGRAM

ANGLO-BOER WAR

HISTORICAL
LIBRETTO

ROBERTS

WORLD'S FAIR
ST. LOUIS, 1904

DIRECTION OF MR. FRANK E. FILLIS, EARL'S COURT, LONDON, S.W.

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President of this Company, late second in command of the Boer forces in the Anglo-Boer War, and author of "My Reminiscences of the Boer War" and the new great historical novel on the Boer War entitled "Under the Vierklieur."

GENERAL BENJAMIN JOHANNES VILJOEN.

Who started his military career at the age of 20, fifteen years ago, as a private in the Transvaal Police. Two years later he was given command of the Krugersdorp Cavalry Corps, the first Government militia established, which became famous for its dash and gallantry shortly after its inauguration. In the great Kaffir wars he took a prominent part, and his very name was dreaded by the Kaffirs. At the outbreak of the late war, while a member of the Senate, he was given the command of the Randt Commando, 2,500 strong. He distinguished himself at Vaalkrans, on the Tugela, where he broke through the British cordon and rescued a Boer cannon, single handed, although seventy-five cannons and Gen. Buller's force poured a deadly fire on him at short range. He was promoted to General after Cronj's surrender, and led the Boer forces at the famous battles of Diamond Hill, Dalmanutha. He was in supreme command when the British garrison, manned by the Royal Irish at Belfast, was captured. He was at the head of his commando when the garrison at Helvetia, manned by the Liverpool Regiment, was captured; together with the garrison artillery and a naval gun from His Majesty's battleship, "The Powerful." He defeated Gen. Paget at Rhenosterkop after twelve hours fierce fighting, inflicting a disastrous loss, and culminating in Gen. Paget's recall. After fighting two years and four months, he was ambushed in the Northern Transvaal at midnight while crossing the British lines, and captured after his horse was shot from under him and two-thirds of his escort killed. He was banished for life to St. Helena, where he wrote his famous story and romance. At the declaration of peace the banishment was withdrawn and he was set free..

Gen. Viljoen has bid farewell to his Fatherland forever. The late war has ruined his home and fortune. Many of his relatives were killed, maimed for life. The scenes and memories of such disaster are too painful. He intends making his home in this Free Country.

GENERAL CRONJE.

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African Landscape.

Early Morn.

Introduction of the Great Show by the Lecturer, Captain Peter James Visser: (Boer)

Ladies and Gentlemen: I have the honor to introduce to you our great Organization entitled "The South African Boer War Exhibition Co.", and in so doing I have much pleasure in informing you that all persons taking part in this military display, 600 in all, are men and women brought from various and distant parts of South Africa. Each and every one has taken a most active part in the late Anglo Boer War.

The first I will introduce to your notice will be the British Contingent 200 strong led by Maj. W. S. Stewart, Capt. Chapin, D. S. O., Capt. Franklin and Captain Dix. You will see that each of the men hold two medals and several clasps.

The next will be a genuine Boer Contingent, led by the Commandants who actually led them in the field. I shall have much pleasure in introducing the officers individually.

LECTURER INTRODUCING COMMANDANTS.

Commandant P. D. Moll, wounded at Belfast and Fort Pisani.

Commandant G. M. J. Van Dam, who took the British Surrender at Nicholson's Nek where he also was wounded.

Commandant Mare, wounded 10 times.

Field Cornet Van Gass, the one armed hero of Spion Kop.

Commandant J. N. Boshoff, who was with De La Rey at the wounding and capture of Lord Methuen, the great British General. Also entrusted with the safe keeping of President Steyn at the time when President Steyn and General De Wet were so hard pressed by Lord Kitchener from the Free State in to the Transvaal.

Two Cape Carts, four-in-hand team, driven by Boers.

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GENERAL BEN VILJOEN.

Second in command of the Transvaal Forces. General Viljoen captured 500 British at the battle of Helvetia and one naval gun of H. M. Powerful, the only naval gun captured during the war. He fought for 2 years and 4 months being ambushed at midnight and his horse shot under him while crossing the British lines. He was taken as a prisoner of war.

GENERAL CRONJE.

One of the Greatest Generals of the Boer Army and the hero of Paardeberg. General Cronje was born in 1836 at Colesberg, Cape Colony, and during a long and happy life has been continually engaged in warfare on behalf of his country either against the South African Savages or his old enemy the British. In 1865 he was a Field Cornet and fought against the Kaffirs and Basutos. In 1880 he was promoted to General, and was in command of the forces who beat the British at Pochets-troom. In 1883 he was in command against the Mapopos. In 1896, Cronje was in command of the Boers who broke up the Jameson raid and captured Jameson at Doornkop. At the beginning of the present war Cronje was made Commandant General and for several months successfully defeated and held at bay the British troops. At the battle of Magersfontein he took several hundred British prisoners and thousands more were killed and wounded. Cronje was eventually surrounded by Lord Roberts at Paardeberg and after fighting for 11 days surrendered in a hopeless condition.

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Mule and ox wagons, showing kind of transport used by both armies in South Africa.

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Second Race, between two Boers and two Britons.

Third, International Race, between Boer, Briton, Australian, Canadian and American.

Fourth, Exciting Race between two Cape carts, four-in-hand, driven by Boers, once around the arena.

Ladies and Gentlemen: The next will be short but vivid representations of several battles, the first being a description of the battle of Colenso and the loss of Col. Longs' guns, the second the battle of Paardeberg and the surrender of General Cronje, and, third, De Wet's marvelous escape through a cordon of British soldiers.

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Tableaux I

THE BATTLE OF COLENZO. Synopsis. Scene, Tugela river, bridge destroyed. Fort Wylie and Greblers Kloof in the distance. Early morn.

Advance of British troops. Naval guns in action. Col. Longs and Hunt's guns dash up in support. Terrific firing from the Boers. Charge of the Imperial Light Horse. Gallant attempt of the Devons to ford Tugela River. A perfect hailstorm of bullets. Attempt to save the guns. Repulse of General Hilliard's men. Last attempt to rescue guns, ending in their capture by the Boers.

Tableaux II.

BATTLE OF PAARDEBERG AND SURRENDER OF GENERAL CRONJE. Last day of the fight Boers discovered working at trenches. British bugles in the distance. Boers take cover. The dangers of scouting. Completely surrounded by British. Cronje's hopeless position. Charge of the New South Wales Lancers. Terrific artillery fusilade. Highland Brigade in action. Hand to hand fight. Burning of commissariat wagon. Explosion of ammunition wagon.

The Surrender.

British cheers. Meeting of Lord Roberts and General Cronje. Grand procession of Boer prisoners, men, women, children and **convoy**.

Tableaux 3rd and last.

DE WET'S flight through CORDON OF BRITISH TROOPS.

Scene, two block houses. Wire entanglements. Sentries on duty.

Cutting of the wire entanglements. Stampede of cattle and mules. British alarm. The Boers' mad rush to evade capture. Terrific fusilade.

De Wet's Escape.

Daring dash for liberty. Party of five Boers, surrounded, dash into drift. One Boer finds himself entrapped by British on top of a block house kopje and, to evade capture, leaps his horse from a height of 35 feet into the drift below.

GRAND FINALE.

The very daring and dangerous feat of jumping from the kopje over 35 feet in height whilst on horseback as shown in this tableau is performed by Mr. Geo. Prescott who served for 2 years with the South African Constabulary during the War. Mr. Prescott is well known in European and South African show circles and this act which has never before been performed on this Continent will give all Americans an opportunity of judging his nerve and skill.

THIS PROGRAM is subject to slight alterations at the discretion of the management, which, however, will be notified by the Lecturer.

MR. FRANK E. FILLIS MOUNTED ON HIS CELEBRATED HORSE, "PROVERO."

Both owner and horse have a world wide reputation which has been greatly enhanced at the World's Fair, St. Louis. For the information and by special request of many visitors, we desire to state that "Provero" is by "Pascale" out of "Pauverette." Was bred in Paris and imported to South Africa as a two-year-old in 1897 by Mr. Frank E. Fillis. Mr. Fillis has himself been responsible for the training of "Provero."

HISTORY OF THE BATTLE OF COLENZO.

Reproduced in This Spectacle.

The little village of Colenso has become famous as the battle ground of one of the most noted victories of the Boer Farmers and correspondingly disastrous defeat of the British soldiers.

The dorp itself numbered less than three score inhabitants and is situated a few miles south of Ladysmith on the Tugela river.

Early in December, 1899, anticipating an attack by Gen. Buller in his advance to the relief of Ladysmith, Gen. Botha hastened to prepare a defense.

He had about 5,000 men with which to defend his position against 23,000 well drilled and equipped British soldiers.

The trenches were hastily manned with Boer riflemen and an irregular battery of six guns were distributed along the line where they would be the most effective.

All being in readiness for the expected advance of the British, Gen. Botha issued orders that no demonstration whatever was to be made that would indicate the location of any of the defensive forces.

In the early morning of December 15th, Botha was informed of the approach of the enemy. Almost instantly every man was at his post of duty.

About 8 a. m., Buller's batteries opened the fray by a bombardment of Fort Wylie with ten guns. For half an hour they continued their thunderous challenge only to be mocked by the reverberating echoes of their batteries against the hills, beyond the Tugela.

It was not till Buller ordered his forces to attack Hlangwane Hill that he had any assurance of the presence of a solitary foe or a single gun.

The cavalry in advance of the infantry trotted across the veldt with as much indifference as if parading over Salisbury plain. A few shots on the hill ahead elicited no reply, and still on they moved with the same careless close formation.

When within 200 yards of the foot of the hill, and all unconscious of the concealed defense a deadly volley of lead was poured into the ranks of the advancing host, sweeping the front rank from their saddles.

Again and again it was repeated till destruction and utter demoralization reigned.

The shock was rendered doubly terrific by the fact that the exact position of the concealed riflemen could not be located.

The report and leaden hail from the smokeless Mauser cartridges being the only indication of the deadly marksmen.

Now came the Boers opportunity to strike a telling blow for the cause of "Land un Volk."

Suddenly there leaped from the trenches in a stretch of three miles of the river bank sheets of livid fire from the 1,500 rifles, repeated at the rate of fifteen shots per minute, sending consternation and death into the terror stricken British ranks in front. The death dealing pom-poms, now for the first time, joined in the fray. Only a few minutes elapsed till every man and horse of the cavalry was stricken down.

After the failure of repeated attempts to effect a crossing of the river, together with the heavy losses he had sustained, Buller resolved on a retreat from the field.

Just at this stage, when victory seemed to perch on Gen. Botha's banners, Col. Long, thinking his battery had really silenced the artillery at Fort Wylie, gave a splendid exhibition of his courage by a furious dash into the midst of the battle-field with two batteries, to stem the tide of defeat and overwhelm the Boer center with a raking fire at short range.

He had however, miscalculated the strength of the defense across the river, and had recklessly rushed into a veritable death trap.

Much credit is due the men in charge of the 12 guns for their admirable skill, pluck and coolness with which they executed every order and served their guns. The effect of which was an effectual but harmless pounding of the rocks and ridges beyond the river. Immediately the leaden missiles of the Mausers in the trenches beyond the river were turned upon the brave but reckless batteries with deadly precision, and their doom was forever sealed.

Repeated but ineffectual attempts to rescue the batteries, so suddenly and almost hopelessly lost, only resulted in disastrous defeat.

Being within a few hundred yards of the rifle pits, they offered a splendid target for the Boer Mausers.

The attention of Gen. Buller having been called to the desperate position of the guns, he hastened to the nearest donga where the remaining men and horses had taken shelter. Some hundred yards or more in front of them was the other donga where Long, Bullock and their gunners had sought refuge.

Who will volunteer to save the guns? shouted Buller. The call was immediately responded to, and the desperate venture was led by Lieutenants Roberts, Congreve and Schofield. With two gun teams they made a frantic dash through the infernal lead storm, and each team returned with a gun, but the cost was fearful. Lieut. Roberts fell mortally wounded, and rather than burden the others he insisted on being left in the field.

For his conduct on this occasion, Lieut. Roberts was awarded the Victoria Cross, and as a special favor his father, Lord Roberts, is allowed to wear his son's V. C. in addition to his own.

Congreve's horse was shot from under him and a Mauser ball caught him in the elbow and another in the knee. He managed, however, to crawl to the donga and secure shelter.

Two detachments from the English regiments succeeded in getting near the guns, but the deadly fire from the Boer trenches was so terrific, they too were compelled to take shelter in the dongas.

General Botha then ordered 200 men in command of Field Cornet Cherrie Emmet, and Lieut. Pohlman, two of the bravest of the brave, to cross the river and bring in the guns.

They succeeded in securing the remaining ten guns, together with some one hundred prisoners, without the loss of a man on either side.

The guns and men were taken in triumph across the river as trophies of the complete victory won for the Transvaal Independence on that memorable 15th of December, 1899.

NATIONAL SOUTH AFRICAN EXHIBIT.

RICHARD DOUGLAS.

Mr. Richard Douglas, the well-known South African Explorer of Buluwayo, Rhodesia, South Africa, is in charge of the National South African Exhibit, which includes a valuable collection of curios, relics and representatives of all the principal tribes of savages from this wonderful country. These, exhibited here for the first time in the world, are specimens of the Zulus, Basutos, Swazis, Matabels, Barotsis, Shangaans, and Zambesis. The Majo-ka-jokas, or cannibal tribe, is represented by one man.

Mr. Douglas has devoted more than 15 years of his life as an explorer in Central Africa. It was only by his personal acquaintance and influence with the native kings that he was enabled to secure these human curiosities for exhibition at the World's Fair.

These savages have a great horror of leaving their homes and their own settlements; and Mr. Douglas had great difficulties to overcome in his undertaking. For instance, the solitary representative of the man-eating Majo-ka-jokas, was smuggled down the country 600 miles, in a wooden box.

The head-dress worn by this medicine man is over 5 feet high. It was stolen, by means of a trick, from Umkamali, the King of the country. Only six like it are now extant. Never before has such a sacred head-dress crossed the Zambesi river.

There are 60 representatives of the various tribes exhibited here in Kraal and native huts on these grounds. These Kraals and huts are similar to those actually used by the natives in South Africa.

All the natives will appear in their native costumes, exactly as worn by them in Darkest Africa.

Mr. Douglas, with the assistance of the South African Government and the native kings, has been enabled to make a remarkably unique collection of native curios, together with specimens of all the wild animal and game heads to be found in the country. We call special attention to a few of the most interesting exhibits: One pair of bullock horns were obtained from King Lewaniki, of Barotseland, and are the finest pair known in the world today. They measure over 9 feet from tip to tip, and 22 inches at the base. Mr. Douglas has already refused \$20,000 for this pair of horns. Another interesting curio is a cat tail karross (native garment) made of more than 1,200 cat tails. It took over 15 years to complete the garment. This magnificent karross was also obtained from King Lewaniki. The exhibit also contains 47 lion skins, 100 tiger skins, 60 varieties of smaller skins, 400 karrosses made up of selections from all the skins of South Africa, ivory ornaments made from the tusks of hippopotamus and elephant and worn only by the savage tribes. A fine collection of native bangle beads and other ornaments, some of which are marvelously beautiful in design and workmanship.

Another interesting feature of the exhibit is a collection of 6,000 photographs of the strange scenes and people to be found in South Africa. Included in this collection are pictures of the largest waterfalls in the world known as Victoria Falls on the Zambesi river. These falls are 1 mile, 165 yards long, and more than 400 feet high, being three times as large as the Niagara Falls,

Mr. Douglas will also display a splendid collection from all the minerals for which this country is noted. A magnificent collection of wild ostrich feathers, the finest in the world, are on exhibition. Some of the feathers in their natural state sell for \$400 per ounce.

Far more could be written of this intensely interesting and educating exhibit and its collector, but inasmuch as the reader can see these marvels of Savage South Africa, examine the curios, and meet Mr. Douglas for themselves, it is not necessary to dilate farther than to assure all patrons a highly enjoyable visit.

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GROUP OF SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVES.

HISTORY OF THE BATTLE OF PAARDEBERG REPRODUCED IN THIS SPECTACLE.

The battle of Paardeberg was the climax of events that insured the victory of the Anglo-Boer War to the British army and forever sealed the doom of the native defenders. The transpiring events of the fortnight prior to February 28th, 1900, so completely changed conditions in the fields of action, as to be a surprise to both sides of the contending forces.

On the 14th of February, Kimberly, Magersfontein, Colesberg and Stormberg were either in possession of, or besieged by the Boers; and Buller had been intercepted at Colenso and forbidden to cross the Tugela on his way north to the relief of Ladysmith.

Two weeks later Magersfontein had been abandoned by Methuen, Clements was advancing on Colesberg. Gatacre was preparing a forward movement at Stormberg, the siege had been raised at Kimberly, and Ladysmith was relieved.

The repeated defeats and disasters the British had suffered up to this time, clearly indicated mismanagement and miscalculation of the strength and stubbornness of the forces with which they were contending.

It was the achievement of a master mind when Lord Roberts kept General Cronje engaged by Methuen for 10 weeks at Kimberley while he planned and executed a campaign that produced such results in so short a time.

Early in February he had completed his dispositions and at once set about executing them with such rapidity and success as to instill new courage into the heart of every Briton and strike dismay into the ranks of the Boers.

The first scene in Lord Roberts campaign was to make a demonstration at Koodvosdrift, the extreme right wing of Cronje's commando, about 30 miles east of Paardeberg. The object was to engage Cronje so as to draw from his forces on his left wing near the Modder river, and open the way for the British cavalry, under Gen. French, to pass west of him to the relief of Kimberly.

The result of the strategy was, French met with but little resistance, and it was not till the cavalry was beyond his reach that Cronje realized the shrewdness of the entire scheme that had been sprung upon him; and that he was being entrapped and his connection with Bloemfontein, his source of supplies, was about to be cut off.

His first move was to abandon his position and the course he had so carefully planned and retire before his connection with Bloemfontein was entirely broken.

His only means of escape was the space in front of Lord Kitchner's mounted infantry stationed at Klip Drift, and the rear of French's cavalry now advancing to Kimberly. Under cover of darkness of the night of the 15th he dashed through this gap with all the furious haste possible for an army of 6,000 men with their equipment of guns and wagons.

Before sunrise on the morning of the 16th Cronje's entire commando was safely outside of the net that was being rapidly thrown around him; and if his progress had not been retarded by his heavy artillery and wagons which could only be moved by slow going ox teams, he would have safely crossed the Modder at Klip Drift before the British were aware of his escape.

Had Cronje been better informed as to the strength and activity of his pursuers, as compared to the exhausted condition of his men and teams, he would have abandoned his guns and stores and made a swift dash across the river and thus escaped with his men. The fact of such a trophy slipping from their grasp and in plain view thrilled the heart of every Briton and Lord Kitchener, with his mounted infantry on the south of the river and Knox's Brigade on the northern bank were soon in hot pursuit.

Though weary and worn with an all night forced march, Cronje's rear guard baffled every approach of the enemy, and at night reached the north bank of the Modder with his guns and stores still intact, but in order to restore his connection with Bloemfontein it was necessary to cross the river. Owing to the deep and precipitous banks it was impossible for a horseman, much less the artillery and provisions for such an army to cross, except at the regular drifts or fords, and they were 7 or 8 miles apart.

Though one of these drifts was almost in sight they were compelled to take a little rest and recreation for the fagged out troops and teams, after 24 hours of marching and fighting. While Cronje was resting the British secured the nearest Drift—Klip-kraal.

Before dawn he resumed the march, after abandoning seventy-eight of his wagons, hoping to secure a crossing at Wolves-kraal Drift.

Although the pursuers were almost as much exhausted and worn as the pursued, the knowledge of the fact that they were closing in on one of the most irresistible Boer Generals infused new energy into every Briton Tommy.

By dint of the utmost effort Smith-Dorrien's Brigade and the Highland Brigade succeeded in securing Paardeberg Drift on Saturday night just in advance of Cronje.

Now the indomitable old General was fairly surrounded. French, with his mounted infantry and cavalry, was at his left flank and rear and Kelly-Kenny's Division was on the south of Klip-Drift. On his front was Smith-Dorrien's brigade and the Highlanders were south of the Drift at Paardeberg. His condition was most hopeless and critical.

The natural conditions, however, rendered his position most formidable. With but little effort the steep banks of the river could be made excellent rifle pits. There were also a number of dongas that were available as natural trenches and required but little work to make them shell proof.

On either side of the river was a level plain of a thousand yards or more in extent. The only way of attack must necessarily be across these open plains.

The assault on Sunday, February 18th was urged from every quarter.

Regardless of past experiences under similar conditions, bearing unquestionable evidence that bravery could not prevail against Mausers in trenches, the British advance was steady till within easy range of the rifles. The scene that followed was a repetition of what transpired at Colenso and Modder river. Regardless of the withering fusillade of bullets they continued to advance by short, mad, rushes; but paying dearly for their temerity. During the attack by the infantry the artillery had been shelling the dongas and scattered rifle pits with but little effect. About noon flames and smoke in the vicinity of the dongas indicated the effect of the shells on the stores and wagons.

The result of the brave but indiscreet charge was a loss of 1,100 British killed and wounded, and a contraction of the Boer lines from 3 miles to 2 miles of the river bank, with their position unshaken.

The setting sun looked sadly upon a bloody field strewn with dead; and field hospitals crowded with wounded men, but an unbroken circle concentrating upon as desperate and determined band of men as ever resolved to sell their freedom as dearly as possible. The desperate condition of the Boers was reduced to dismay and despair on Monday morning by the appearance of Lord Roberts in person, accompanied with Tucker's entire division. Cronje's little army was now assailed by 35,000 men and 36 guns. It would be a contemptible spirit that would not admire the grit and gallantry with which these farmers contended for their homes, and place the name of Cronje high on the roll of honor for the courage with which he led them on.

Gradually the besiegers closed in on the besieged till their hampered quarters became a den of corruption caused by decaying bodies of animals lying in the broiling sun, the stench of which was wafted for miles over the plains.

Although the desperate condition of the Boers increased as the days and hours slowly dragged along they availed themselves of every opportunity to send a deadly volley into the ranks of the slowly approaching victors. On the night of the 26th such rapid advance had been made that on the morning of February 27th, 1900, Majuba Day, after a fierce attack by the Royal Canadian Regiment in which the latter lost upwards of 100 men, Cronje realized that the extreme limit of his resistance had come, and a white flag appeared above a trench and a haggard and worn figure came forward, and said, "The Boers have had enough; what are they to do?" At 6 o'clock a. m., Lord Roberts and General Cronje met and shook hands; Lord Roberts saying, "You have made a gallant fight, sir! I am glad to see you. I am glad to get so brave a man". Thus ended the siege and battle of Paardeberg at which upward of 3,000 Boers were taken prisoners, and was the turning point of the war to final victory for the British.

CAPTAIN S. H. CHAPIN, D. S. O.
(British.)

CAPT. F. J. FRANKLIN,
(British.)

CAPT. E. W. DIX,
(British.)

COMMANDANT J. N. BOSHOFF.
(Boer.)

COMMANDANT P. D. MOLL.
(Boer.)

CAPTAIN A. H. BLEKSLEY.
(Boer.)

COMMANDANT G. M. VAN DAM
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